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Inverter Open Circuit Faults Diagnosis in Series-Connected Six-Phases Permanent Magnet Drive

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Abstract—This paper deals with the fault effects analysis and diagnosis in 6- Φ PMSM designed for aerospace applications. The addressed work aims to analyze the features offered by the space vector theory applied to these systems for fault detection and identification purposes. The paper starts with a presentation of the overall electric drive system structure and its control. Then, fault effects analysis under faulty operation mode of the 6-leg voltage source inverter is presented considering the space vector theory. Based on such analysis, an accurate FDI process is designed for these applications. All results are verified analytically and through simulation software using Matlab/Simulink.

Keywords— *Aerospace safety, six-phase PMSM, multiphase electric drive, inverter fault effects analysis, fault detection and identification, open-switch fault.*

NOMENCLATURE

i_n	Phase Currents in $abcdef$ frame
$i_{\alpha\beta 1}$	Current components in $\alpha\beta 1$ frame
$i_{\alpha\beta 2}$	Currents components in $\alpha\beta 2$ frame
i_{n1}, i_{n2}	Homopolar current components
PWM	Pulse-Width Modulation
VSI	Voltage Source Inverter
FEA	Fault Effects Analysis
OSF	Open-Switch Fault
OPF	Open-phase Fault
FDI Process	Fault Detection and Identification Process
Back-EMFs	Back electromotive forces

I. INTRODUCTION

MULTIPHASE machines are interesting in some industrial applications because of their inner fault-tolerance capability to some of the most common drive faults, as open-switch and open-phase faults [1]-[3]. The fault tolerance is due to the higher number of Degrees of Freedom (DoF) for control. The most mentioned drawback of these machines is the supplementary transistors needed to supply all the phases which may increase the system weight, volume and cost.

A series connected topology is a solution to reduce the number of transistors [4]-[7]. Therefore, by connecting two machines in series the transistors are mutualized, halving its number. In some cases, the series-connected topology may also increase the system performance in degraded mode by reducing the current amplitudes and the torque ripple [5]. In order to assure the independent control of both machines, the machines must at first be multiphase to have enough DoF in order to be able to control each machine. Secondly a special coupling between the two machines, called swapping connection, is needed to decouple them for control purpose. More details are addressed in section II of the present paper.

Even if the multiphase machines are fault tolerant, some effects as unbalanced currents and torque ripples may be constraints for some applications. Consequently, reconfiguration strategies must be achieved to improve the degraded mode and for optimal operation of the electric drive system. The replacement of a faulty transistor is simply implemented, but it demands redundant components and TRIACs in order to isolate the faulty transistor and connect the healthy one to the system, increasing thus the system cost [8]. In the case of two-star 6-phase machines, it is possible to disconnect the star supplied by the faulty transistor [9], but it halves the maximum power that the machine may generate. Multiphase machine has DoF that are usually not used in normal functioning mode, but they can be controlled in degraded mode to reduce the torque ripple. Some papers present some reconfiguration control strategies [10].

In order to act in degraded mode, it is necessary to detect the fault mode and the faulty components. The most diagnostic methods addressed in the literature concern the classical drive system based on 3-phase VSIs feeding 3-phase machines. Their evaluation is addressed in [11]-[12]. They are classified as model based methods [13] or signal based methods [12]-[17]. The first ones need an accurate system model to achieve a robust algorithm. Techniques based on analysis of the signals require the measurement of inverter outputs currents or voltages. Methods based on voltage analysis, as addressed in [14]-[19], have a major drawback because an extra hardware or

extra sensors are usually needed for real time implementation. Methods based on current signals have been reported in [16]-[20] to multiple open-switch fault. All cited methods cannot be simply applied to the multiphase systems. Firstly, as the power is split to more numerous phases, it can be expected that the detection of open-circuit can be more difficult. Moreover, after a fault occurrence, the modification of the currents in the other phases will not be identical as it is for a wye-coupled 3-phase drive, resulting in false alarms when considering the method developed for the 3-phase systems.

Regarding the multiphase systems, there are only a few works [3], [19] and [20] that address especially the FDI problem for multiphase systems especially under inverter switch faults. Therefore, a 5-phase or an asymmetric 6-phase PMSM was considered. In [3], it is shown that the inverter fault induces a fault current in the second plane ($\alpha\beta 2$) instead of near zero component under a healthy operation of the VSI. The shape position created by the fault occurrence is used for fault detection and identification. In [19], fault detection algorithm is defined for a BLDC five-machine supplied by the first and third harmonic of currents and with a normalization by the modulus of the measured current vector. The approach is based on an adaptive RLS (Recursive Least Square) identification of each measured current. Errors between the output of adaptive estimation and the one obtained by the model are used for fault diagnostic. In [20], fault detection algorithm is applied to an asymmetric 6-phase PMSM, by analyzing the error between the measured currents and their references.

Concerning the system under study with a particular connection, these methods cannot be applied directly in this case for fault detection and identification. The considered system in this work owns particular characteristics, which will be used to elaborate specific detection methods, as achieved in this work.

Section II presents the series-connected machines topology and the most important equations to understand its mathematical model and control. Section III shows the fault effect analysis on the currents during an OSF and OPF. Section IV describes the FDI process taking into account the current behavior in degraded mode described on Section III.

II. MODELING AND CONTROL OF THE SERIES-CONNECTED TWO SIX-PHASE PMSM

The topology analyzed in this paper is depicted in Fig.1. It is composed of two six-phase PMSM connected in series. The six-legs VSI is fed by a constant voltage source provided through a capacitive dc-link. Each leg regroups two transistors with anti-parallel connected freewheeling diodes ($T_k, T_{k+6}, k=1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6$). The VSI is controlled by the gate switching signals (S_k, S_{k+6}) $\in \{0, 1\}$. The gate signal S_k or S_{k+6} is equal to "1" when the switch is in "ON" state and equal to "0" when the switch is "OFF" state.

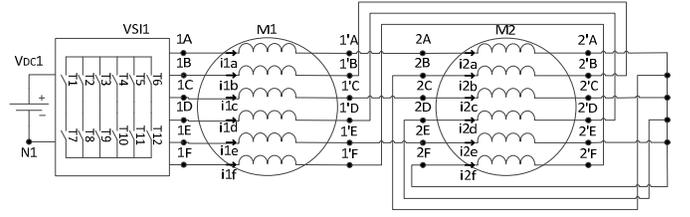


Fig. 1: The dual-machine series connected topology

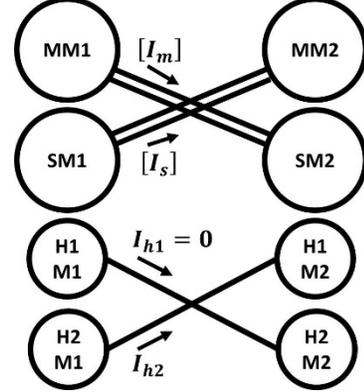


Fig. 2: Equivalent electric coupling of the fictitious machines after the subspace decomposition

TABLE I: Back-EMF harmonic related to each fictitious machine

6-Phase Machine	First Homopolar Machine (h1)	Secondary Homopolar Machine (h2)	Main Machine ($\alpha \beta$)	Secondary Machine (x y)
Back-EMF Harmonics	H0, H6, ... H6k	H3, H9, ... H6k±3	H1, H5, H7, ... H6k±1	H2, H4, H8, ... H6k±2

$$[I_2] = [K][I_1] \quad (1)$$

$[K]$ is defined by

$$[K] = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (2)$$

$$[C_6] = \sqrt{\frac{2}{6}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{6}\right) & \cos\left(\frac{4\pi}{6}\right) & -1 & \cos\left(\frac{8\pi}{6}\right) & \cos\left(\frac{10\pi}{6}\right) \\ 0 & \sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{6}\right) & \sin\left(\frac{4\pi}{6}\right) & 0 & \sin\left(\frac{8\pi}{6}\right) & \sin\left(\frac{10\pi}{6}\right) \\ 1 & \cos\left(\frac{4\pi}{6}\right) & \cos\left(\frac{8\pi}{6}\right) & 1 & \cos\left(\frac{16\pi}{6}\right) & \cos\left(\frac{20\pi}{6}\right) \\ 0 & \sin\left(\frac{4\pi}{6}\right) & \sin\left(\frac{8\pi}{6}\right) & 0 & \sin\left(\frac{16\pi}{6}\right) & \sin\left(\frac{20\pi}{6}\right) \\ \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} & \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} & \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} & \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} & \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} & \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \\ \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} & -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} & \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} & -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} & \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} & -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \end{bmatrix} \quad (3)$$

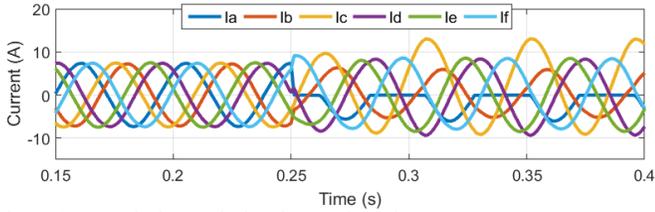


Fig. 4: Currents before and after the opening of T1

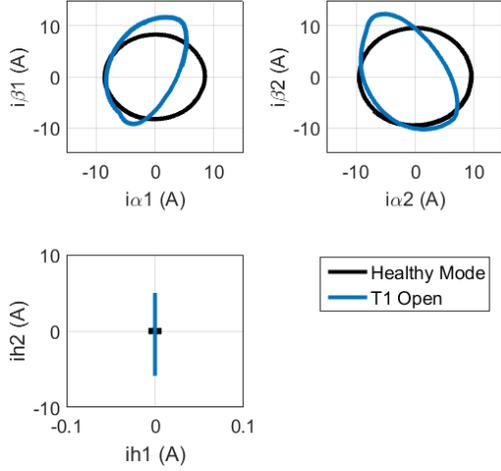


Fig. 5: Current components on the $\alpha\beta 1$ -, $\alpha\beta 2$ - and H1H2 frames for T1 open

dynamic performances of the system are affected especially when the current of the faulty inverter leg is nullified (during the interval in which T1 is normally in ON state). During the second half-period, when $i_a(t)$ becomes negative, the electric drive system performances are similar to the healthy state.

Now, working in the decoupled subspaces of the 6-phase PMSM, several planes are available for the analysis instead of only one in natural frame. As detailed in section II, these planes are obtained by applying the linear Concordia Transformation. Simulated results of the inverter fault effects analysis in these $\alpha\beta 1$ -, $\alpha\beta 2$ - and H1H2-planes are shown in Fig.5. It should be noticed that the third plane, called "H1H2-plane" is voluntarily constructed for fault diagnostic purposes. Therefore, two 1D-variables are merged to form the 2D-plane H1H2.

The OSF in T1 results in modifications of the current trajectories in decoupled subspaces. A similar behavior is obtained for an OSF in a different transistor as T7 (Fig. 6 and Fig. 7). Therefore, under fault condition, the shapes are no longer circles for $\alpha\beta 1$ -, $\alpha\beta 2$ - or zero for H1H2-plane, as for a healthy operation mode of the VSI. The OSF induces different trajectories in all planes. A particular characteristic is the non-zero current obtained in H1H2-plane after the fault occurrence, instead of zero in healthy mode. This characteristic together with the information derived from the dynamic of the current vectors in $\alpha\beta 1$ - and $\alpha\beta 2$ -planes represent the key point for fault diagnostic process designing.

Regarding the OPF case, it is observed that, from simulation results depicted in Fig. 8, the fault results in zero current in the

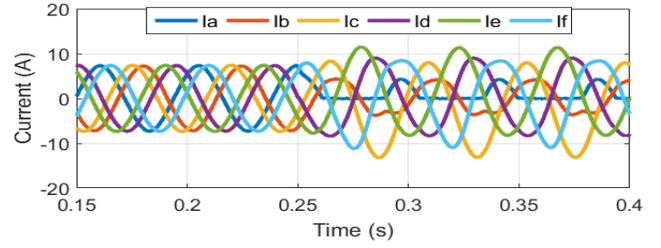


Fig. 6: Currents before and after the opening of T7

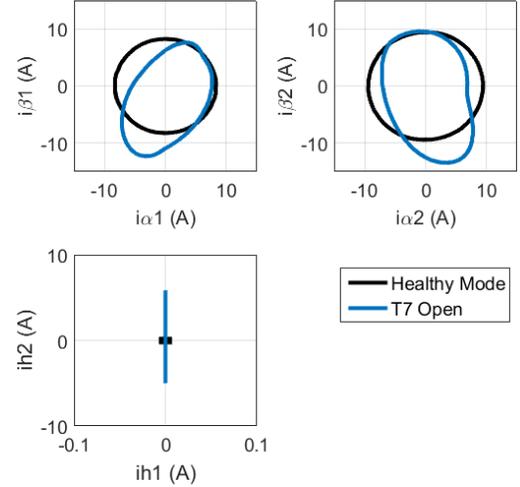


Fig. 7: Current components on the $\alpha\beta 1$ -, $\alpha\beta 2$ - and H1H2 frames for T7 open

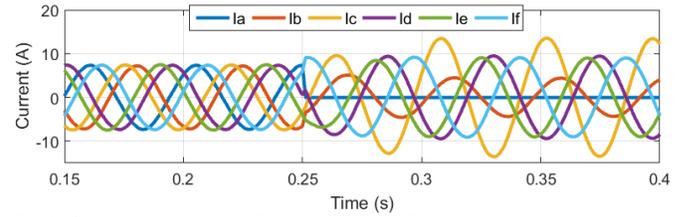


Fig. 8: Currents before and after the opening of phase A

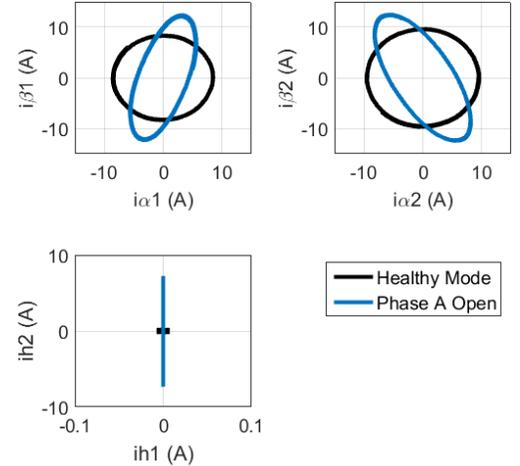


Fig. 9: Current components on the $\alpha\beta 1$ -, $\alpha\beta 2$ - and H1H2 frames for phase A open

TABLE II: Component current comportment for each frame and each fault mode

	k	$\alpha\beta 1$ -frame	$\alpha\beta 2$ -frame	H1H2 Frame
Healthy Mode		0	0	0
T_k open	odd	$(2k+5)\pi/6$	$(2k+5)\pi/6$	$\neq 0$
	even		$(2k-1)\pi/6$	$\neq 0$
T_{k+6} open	odd	$(2k-1)\pi/6$	$(2k-1)\pi/6$	$\neq 0$
	even		$(2k+5)\pi/6$	$\neq 0$
T_k+T_{k+6} open		0	0	$\neq 0$

faulty phase. In the Concordia frame, the obtained shapes in $\alpha\beta 1$ and $\alpha\beta 2$ planes, Fig. 9, result from the intersection of the shapes corresponding to the single OSF of the involved transistors (T1 and T7).

Finally, it can be concluded that the major differences between the analyzed faults are the average position of the shape in $\alpha\beta 1$ - and $\alpha\beta 2$ -frames. These characteristics together with those derived from the H1H2 plane, are the key point for the detection and localization of the fault since each average position in $\alpha\beta 1$ - and $\alpha\beta 2$ -planes corresponds to one OSF or OPF in the VSI. In TABLE II and Fig. 10, it is summarized the different average positions which can be taken by the shapes in $\alpha\beta 1$ - and $\alpha\beta 2$ -planes.

As the system is composed by symmetric even-phase machines, there are two phases sharing the same axes in the $\alpha\beta 1$ - and $\alpha\beta 2$ -planes, phase A and D for example. But thanks to the coupling between the machines, the phases B, D and F (the even phases and switches (k)) have a different behavior between the $\alpha\beta 1$ - and $\alpha\beta 2$ -planes. This difference shows that even if one frame is not enough to localize the faulty switch, each switch has its own signature when combining both frames.

IV. INVERTER OSF AND OPF DIAGNOSTIC

In this section, the diagnostic procedure is described. The flowchart of design processing algorithm is shown in Fig. 11. The diagnostic procedure consists in three main steps:

- Fault component in decoupled subspace;
- Fault detection;
- Fault location;

The first part consists in obtaining the fault components, which means the current components of each fictitious machine. These quantities are calculated using the measured phase currents and the linear Concordia transformation. The fault detection is obtained by analyzing the homopolar currents in the H1H2 plane. These currents are the most reliable ones in this case, because they are null in healthy mode. So the detection consists in calculating the detection variable D_h , expressed by the equation (8) and in comparing it to D_{th} which denotes the threshold value used to detect the fault occurrence in the VSI.

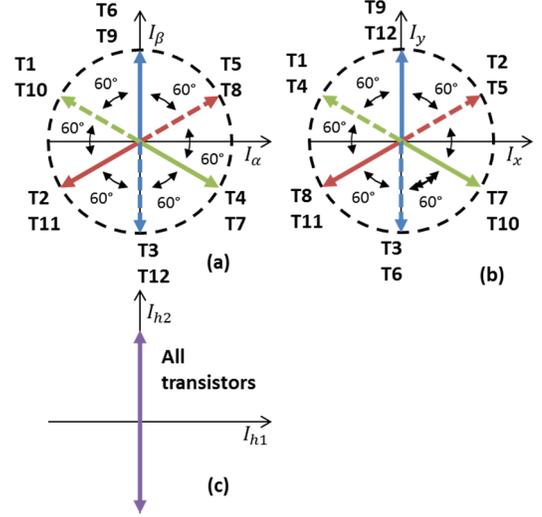


Fig. 10: Faulty shapes average positions in Concordia frame. (a) $\alpha\beta 1$ (b) $\alpha\beta 2$ and (c) H1H2

TABLE III: FDI Indexes for each Fault Mode

	k	D_h	$P_{\alpha\beta 1}$	$P_{\alpha\beta 2}$	OP_n
Healthy Mode		0	0	0	> 0
T_{2k} open	odd	> 0	$(2k+5)\pi/6$	$(2k+5)\pi/6$	> 0
	even			$(2k-1)\pi/6$	> 0
T_{k+6} open	odd	> 0	$(2k-1)\pi/6$	$(2k-1)\pi/6$	> 0
	even			$(2k+5)\pi/6$	> 0
T_k+T_{k+6} open		> 0	0	0	0

As D_h is null in healthy mode, D_{th} value can be quite low, in order to detect the fault as soon as possible.

After the fault detection, three actions are achieved simultaneously; the localization of the shape's average position in $\alpha\beta 1$ - and $\alpha\beta 2$ -frames ($P_{\alpha\beta}$ and P_{xy}) and the calculation of the RMS value of the real currents (OP_n). In equations (9)-(10), it is shown the expressions of the diagnostic variables $P_{\alpha\beta}$ and P_{xy} required by the FDI process. For $P_{\alpha\beta 1}$ and $P_{\alpha\beta 2}$, an error of $\pi/6$ is tolerate. This step ends by detecting the faulty switch or the faulty phase based on the comparison of the diagnostic variables $P_{\alpha\beta}$, P_{xy} and OP_n to a database specified in TABLE III. Fig. 12 and Fig. 13 address some examples of the fault detection and localization in the VSI based on the defined diagnostic algorithm when an OSF of transistor T1 or an OPF of phase A occur.

$$D_h = \langle \sqrt{I_{h1}^2 + I_{h2}^2} \rangle \quad (8)$$

$$P_{\alpha\beta 1} = \arctg \left(\frac{\langle I_{\beta} \rangle}{\langle I_{\alpha} \rangle} \right) \quad (9)$$

$$P_{\alpha\beta 2} = \arctg \left(\frac{\langle I_x \rangle}{\langle I_y \rangle} \right) \quad (10)$$

$$OP_n = \sqrt{\langle i_n^2 \rangle} \quad (11)$$

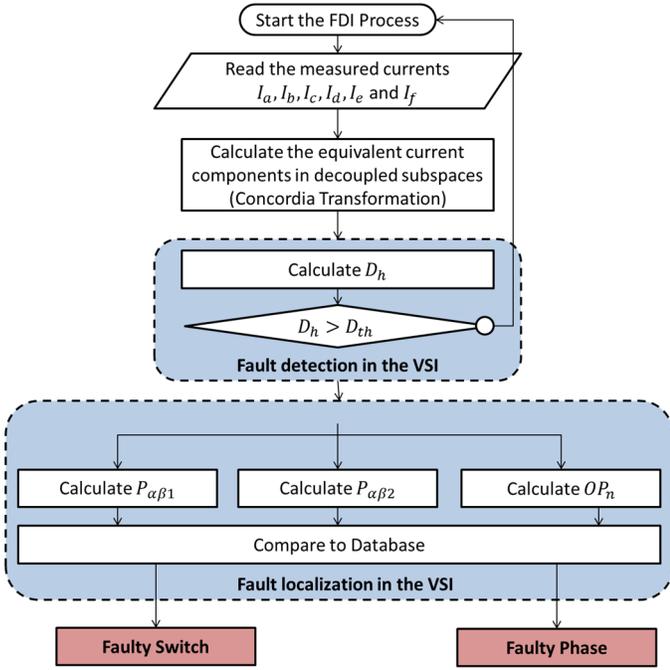


Fig. 11: FDI flowchart

It should be noticed that all the characteristic values used in this method are moving average values computed over one current fundamental period. In addition, for a high performance of the proposed diagnosis method, the measured rotor speed is used to compute the mean values of the defined diagnostic indices.

V. CONCLUSION

This method shows a simple and fast diagnosis technique of OSF and OPF occurrence in a 6-leg VSI feeding 2 even-phase PMSM connected in series. Only the measured currents are used for this purpose and no additional hardware or extra sensors are needed by the proposal. The proposed FDI process uses the information derived from the constructed two dimensional homopolar plane H1H3 combined with the information linked to the current components distribution in $\alpha\beta1$ - and $\alpha\beta2$ -frames. In fact, as the currents of $\alpha\beta1$ - and $\alpha\beta2$ -frames control the torque of each machine, I_{h2} is the only current component that is null on healthy mode and has a distinct value in degraded mode, resulting in a reliable detection variable. Other characteristics are related to the average position of the current trajectories in $\alpha\beta1$ - and $\alpha\beta2$ -planes are used to identify the faulty transistor.

This paper presented only simulation results. Therefore the experimental verification of the proposed technique constitutes the natural next step.

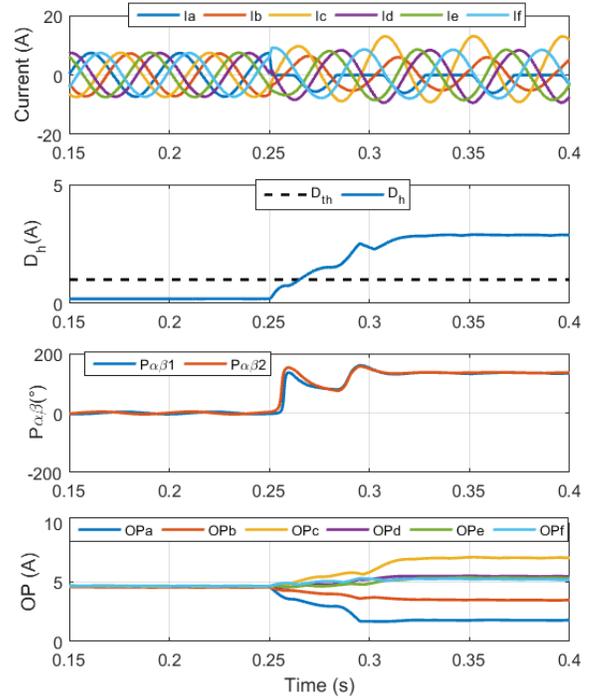


Fig. 12: Time domain waveforms of the phase currents and the diagnostic variables when an OSF of transistor T1 occurs in the VSI while two machines turn at the same speed but with different torques.

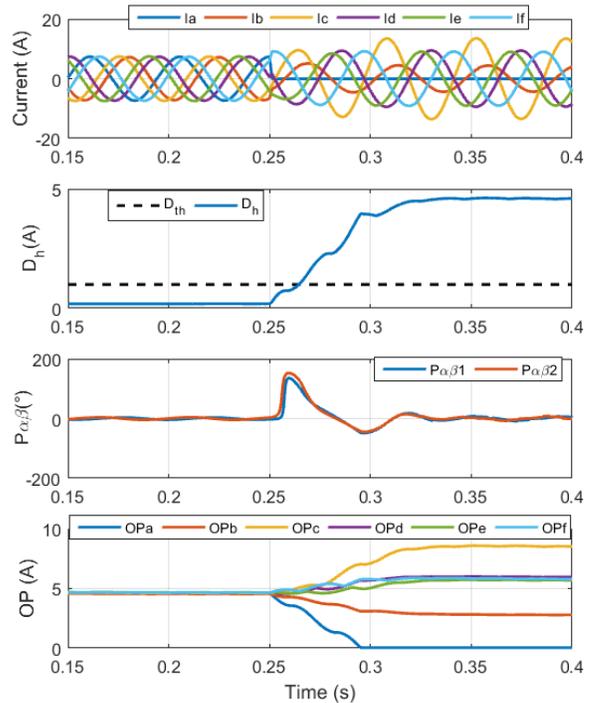


Fig. 13: Time domain waveforms of the phase currents and the diagnostic variables when an OPF of phase A occurs while two machines turn at the same speed but with different torques.

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